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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R.  
§1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 3739**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

<b>Applicants:</b>	Parris S. Wellman, et al.	<b>Examiner:</b>	Michael F. Peffley
<b>Serial No:</b>	10/615,152	<b>Art Unit:</b>	3739
<b>Filed:</b>	July 8, 2003	<b>Docket:</b>	14641Z (ETH-1559CONT)
<b>For:</b>	SURGICAL DEVICE FOR CLAMPING, LIGATING, AND SEVERING TISSUE		
<b>Dated:</b>	December 5, 2005		

**Conf. No.:** 8263

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

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This Amendment is filed in reply to the Office Action mailed September 28,  
2005. Entry and consideration of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 5, 2005.

**Dated:** December 5, 2005

  
Dermott J. Cooke